

From: chrisharrison@citlink.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 5:12am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Honorable Justices,

It seems to me the most significant factor regarding the decision to break up or apply punitive measures to Microsoft is being completely ignored. This key factor was and still is 'interoperability', which is the ability of computers running different operating systems to exchange files, data, and otherwise communicate freely. Microsoft manipulated features and issues that exploited or limited interoperability in order to squelch competition.

Furthermore, the proposed settlement offers no resolution of this core problem. There's little in the way of laws in place that protects a consumer's rights to interoperability in an OS (Operating System) or NOS (Network Operating System). Just as the development of automobiles necessitated speed limits and standardized safety equipment (turn signals, seatbelts, etc.), America need laws to protect consumers from a single company controlling or overmanipulating the evolution of such essential elements in its network and computing environments.

Recommendation: Penalty and/or restitution be added or replace

self-monitoring agent; such that Microsoft be required to take a principal role (via it's proven legal and technical expertise) in enacting new laws that protect consumers' rights to an open OS environment, while providing guidelines for product development that complies with an open standard for OS and NOS interoperability. This role may be manifested by the development of a standards organization, or by a joint committee with congress to enact such laws.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher F. Harrison

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